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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/965,025	09/27/2001	Robert J. Tait	4402-002	2637

22440 7590 12/16/2004

GOTTLIEB RACKMAN & REISMAN PC  
270 MADISON AVENUE  
8TH FLOOR  
NEW YORK, NY 100160601

EXAMINER

KINDRED, ALFORD W

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2163

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/965,025

Applicant(s)

TAIT ET AL.

Examiner

Alford W. Kindred

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: RCE, filed on 10/14/04.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis et al., US# 6,578,013 B1, in view of Kalyan et al., US# 6,826,538 B1.

As per claim 1, ***Davis et al.*** teaches creating and modifying data relating to components specific to that supplier . . ." (see col. 2, lines 41-66) "creating and modifying a plurality of component groups . . . compatibility groups independently . . ." (see col. 7, lines 46-66, whereas Davis's "supplier administrator", which includes modifying component groups independently, as illustrated in applicant's claim language) "receiving product identifiers created by an external source and assigning each product identifier to a compatibility group . . . products with similar compatibilities . . ." (see col. 9, lines 7-34, whereas Davis teaches product comparison as claimed in the applicant's claim language ) "providing a search tool whereby said database is queried by product identifier . . ." (see col. 9, lines 60-67). ***Davis et al.*** does not explicitly teach "one or more product component suppliers . . .". ***Kalyan et al.*** teaches "one or more product component suppliers . . ." (see col. 1, lines 25-59, col. 13, lines 60-67 and col. 14, lines

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1-43). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art the tools to

As per claim 2, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1 and is similarly rejected including the following:

-- ***Davis et al.*** teaches "said suppliers exporting said data portion as modified to said administrator, consolidating said data portions received from said suppliers into said database" (see col. 7, 20-45, whereas Davis' "tracking process . . ." combined with the customer database reads on applicant's claim language).

As per claim 3, ***Davis et al.*** teaches "assigning the product to an existing compatibility group . . . to an unassigned compatibility group" (see col. 6, lines 19-55; whereas Davis' supplier administrator and supplier database, update process, reads on applicant's claim language).

As per claim 4-5, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 1-2 and are similarly rejected.

As per claim 6, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given to rejected claims 1 and 2 and are similarly rejected including the following:

--***Davis et al.*** teaches "multiple supplier interfaces each allowing access to a part of the data relating to the components of the respective supplier . . ." (see col. 10, lines 49-60).

As per claims 7-9, ***Davis et al.*** teaches "components are vehicle components

and said product identifiers are vehicle details . . .” (see col. 10, 49-64 whereas Davis’ suppliers and products, includes vehicle items as claimed in applicant’s claim language).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 10-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis in view of Kalyan, and further in view of Rebane, US# 2003/0130983 A1.

As per claims 10-13 and 17, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claims 1-2 and are similarly rejected including the following:

--***Davis et al.*** does not teach “a product component supplier’s compatibility lists . . . collating the compatibility information . . .”. ***Rebane*** teaches “a product component supplier’s compatibility lists . . . collating the compatibility information . . .” (see paragraphs [0065], [0110], and [0242]). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the teachings of Davis and Rebane, because using the steps of “a product component supplier’s compatibility lists . . . collating the compatibility information . . .”, would have given those skilled in the art

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the ability to incorporate a list of compatible suppliers for product data. This gives users more accurate information regarding compatibility issues regarding products.

As per claims 14-15, these claims are rejected on grounds corresponding to the arguments given above for rejected claim 10 and is similarly rejected including the following:

--**Davis et al.** teaches "product identifier is assigned to each product . . ." (see col. 9, lines 7-34).

As per claim 16, **Davis et al.** teaches "a drag and drop process" (see col. 5, lines 37-67).

As per claim 18, Davis et al. teaches "a component group . . . within each component group" (see col. 6, lines 19-55 and col. 7, lines 46-66).

As per claim 19, **Davis et al.** does not explicitly teach "the database is searchable using the product identifier . . .". **Rebane** teaches "the database is searchable using the product identifier . . ." (see paragraph [0113]). It would have been obvious at the time of the invention for one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined the teachings of Davis and Rebane, because using the steps of "the database is searchable using the product identifier . . ." would have given those skilled in the art the tools to retrieve in data from a database of product information based on input information. This gives users the advantage of searching databases to retrieve product data more efficiently.

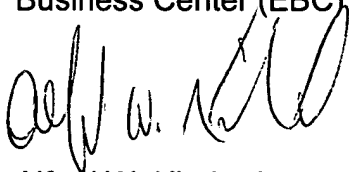
As per claim 20, this claim is rejected on grounds corresponding to the argument given above for rejected claims 1 and 10 and is similarly rejected.

**Conclusion**

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alford W. Kindred whose telephone number is 571-272-4037. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 9:00 am- 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Alford W. Kindred  
Patent Examiner  
Tech Ctr. 2100